



# AREY TO NEWSLETTER

A Publication of ASPIRA of New York, Inc.

## ASPIRA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HOLDS FUNDRAISER

**A**SPIRA's Alumni Association celebrated ASPIRA's 35th anniversary and its own re-launching with a special birthday party/fundraiser for three alumni members. The fundraiser titled "Los Tres Amigos" was held on February 22nd, at the Martin Luther King Labor Center Auditorium in Manhattan.

Digna Sanchez, President of the Alumni Association and one of *Los Amigos* conceived of the idea to celebrate her and her friends' 50th birthday, with a fundraiser benefiting the Association. Though some *amigos* were more reluctant than others to advertise this milestone birthday, a tenacious Digna persevered. The result was a wonderful and successful celebration attended by over 200 friends, families and supporters. With over \$16,000 raised, and repeated requests by attendees for more Alumni-sponsored events, the party was

**The essential elements of pride in knowing one's culture and history, striving for academic excellence, and promoting leadership and a sense of commitment to the community, continues to this day.**

a resounding success. Said Digna Sanchez in her message that evening, "The turbulent 1960s brought to life the ideas, dreams and goals of the ASPIRA movement. In 1961 Dr. Antonia Pantoja led a group of Puerto Rican professionals and community activists to found ASPIRA in New York City.



**LOS TRES AMIGOS**  
**DIGNA SANCHEZ, ANDRES TORRES, MILGA MORALES-NADAL**

Thirty-five years later, ASPIRA of New York is but one of several ASPIRA affiliates across the U.S. and Puerto Rico. This commitment to assure the continuation of ASPIRA and its mission spurred the development of the Alumni Association in 1993.

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ASPIRA of New York supports the efforts of the Alumni Association, and acknowledges their important contributions. As our Chairman, Daniel Agosto said "Together we can ensure

that our youth will become strong, creative and ethical leaders of tomorrow, as Los Tres Amigos are today."

About *Los Tres Amigos*: Digna Sanchez is Vice President for Community Education Services at the Children's Television Workshop and an ASPIRA Board Member. Dr. Milga Morales-Nadal is an Associate Professor of Education at Brooklyn College and an ASPIRA Board member. Andres Torres teaches economics at the College of Public and Community Service at the University of Massachusetts, and author of "Between Melting Pot and Mosaic" a political-economic history of African Americans and Puerto Ricans in New York City.

For Alumni Information/Application Call:  
(212) 564-6888 Ext: 350

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## PROJECT BEAM 10 CELEBRATES ONE YEAR OF SERVICE

The Building Educational Aspiration and Multiculturalism (BEAM) Project is a New York City Department of Youth and Community Development funded program aimed at integrating families and communities. Year-round after school services aimed at area residents are provided evenings and on weekends.

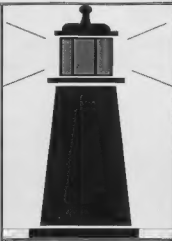
Project BEAM 10 operates out of P.S. 86 in the Kingsbridge/Norwood section of the North Bronx. Some of the services provided include:

- leadership development
- tutorial assistance
- family and academic counseling
- parent involvement training
- recreational activities
- cultural programs
- family support services
- child care
- drug and violence protection

In its first year of operation, Project BEAM 10 served 1723 area residents (698 adults and 1077 youth).

Said BEAM 10 Director Susana Rivera, "We at Project B.E.A.M. 10 have become a beacon, a guiding light that has drawn in stray ships, helping them stay on course. The vision of **ASPIRA** Project B.E.A.M. 10 is to establish a common purpose for the Kingsbridge community. To promote the development of a community that aspires to advance its families as a whole, along with its individual members. **ASPIRA** Project B.E.A.M. 10 envisions a multicultural community knowledgeable of and involved in public issues; families proud of their cultural legacy while respectful of the experiences of others, and a community willing to give of itself for the benefit of the city at large."

**ASPIRA** congratulates the staff and participants of Project BEAM 10 on a successful 1st year partnership in service to the community.



*"We at Project B.E.A.M. 10 have become a beacon, a guiding light that has drawn in stray ships, helping them stay on course."*

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#### Student Members

Onel Nar

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## THE TIME WARNER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

**A** **SPIRA** of New York, Inc. is the proud recipient of **Time Warner's** \$25,000 donation towards the creation of the **Time Warner Scholarship Program**. This program will benefit **ASPIRA's** students (Aspirantes) by providing monetary assistance averaging \$1,000 to eligible college-bound candidates. We welcome **Time Warner's** partnership and applaud the company's commitment to

helping Puerto Rican and other Latino youth achieve excellence through education.



Since its inception in 1961 **ASPIRA** of New York, has, in partnership with the private sector, provided educational assistance to thousands of students. We are pleased to continue this legacy, thanks to the generous support of companies like **Time Warner**.

• Board of Directors  
• Executive Committee  
• Advisory Board  
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• ASPIRA of New York, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. It is a member of the Puerto Rican community by support of the Puerto Rican community and the Puerto Rican community. ASPIRA of New York, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. It is a member of the Puerto Rican community by support of the Puerto Rican community and the Puerto Rican community. ASPIRA of New York, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. It is a member of the Puerto Rican community by support of the Puerto Rican community and the Puerto Rican community.

## AT&T AWARDS ASPIRA \$25,000 TO CREATE COMPUTER LAB

**C**oncerned that our youth have access to today's information technology, and be prepared to compete in tomorrow's technological arena, ASPIRA's Executive Director, Anthony López sought and received an AT&T grant in the fall of 1996 to develop a

*"In essence, we are waging a battle to ensure that the Latino and African-American inner city community does not become a permanent technological underclass or a virtual ghetto."*

pilot program that introduces and provides Aspirantes with access to computer and information technology as a means to educational development. ASPIRA created a Computer Internet Lab and launched a six weeks introductory training program (for students grades 9-12) on word processing, desktop publishing, and introduction to the World Wide Web. Said Mr. López, "In essence, we are waging a battle to ensure that the Latino



From Left: Rita DiMartino, VP, Federal Government Affairs/AT&T; Anthony López, Executive Director/ASPIRA of New York, Inc.; Belkis Pena, VP, NYS Markets/AT&T; Rei Perez, Manager, Hispanic Public Relations/AT&T

and African-American communities do not become a permanent technological underclass or a virtual ghetto." In its first year, the program has served over 100 students. It is also being used for training, college and career research, and financial aid counseling. Thanks to

to AT&T's support, ASPIRA is embarking on a multi-year initiative to utilize technology in all aspects of the agency's work.

For Information, Please Call  
(212) 564-6880 Ext: 333

## 1997 ASPIRA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

**T**he Amoco Scholarship Program now in its 9th year, is a highly successful effort by Amoco dealers, brokers, and the Amoco Foundation to provide financial help to college-bound students in the greater New York City metropolitan area. Administered through ASPIRA of New York's College/Career Advisement Program (C/CAP) division, the program recognizes high school graduates who have served their school and community, and lack the financial resources for college. The number of Amoco Scholarships have steadily increased over the years. Last year's support totaled \$95,000 - with an all time high this year of \$111,000 going to 77 Aspirantes. Thank you Amoco.

Other long time scholarship providers include the Richard Eaton Scholarship Fund. This fund was established in 1994, generating an annual grant of \$5,000.

ASPIRA thanks the following companies, new to our scholarship family, for each awarding a \$1,000 scholarship to an Aspirante this year

- AT&T
- Ford Motor Company
- King Pangua, Inc.
- Oxford Health Plans
- Daily News Scholarship Fund
- Reebok International LTD
- Western Union



Singer Marc Anthony (center) joins Zoe Aponte/Reebok Representative and Lydell Carter/ASPIRA Associate Director in congratulating Reebok scholarship recipients Charles Rosado (far left) and Melissa Llaena (2nd from right).

## VICE PRESIDENT GORE'S DAUGHTER VISITS ASPIRA

In October, Karena Gore, paid ASPIRA of New York a visit with the purpose of meeting with young Latino leaders to learn what issues are pertinent to the Latino community. A meeting comprised of ASPIRA's management and members of the Young Professional Latinos for Community Empowerment (YPLCE) a politically and economically independent membership organization that builds community through shared leadership, gathered for this informal fact finding dialogue. Discussions with Ms. Gore centered around:

- Immigration
- Welfare Reform
- English Only
- Access to High Education; and
- Economic Development

With the hope of affecting change, ASPIRA promotes, and welcomes future opportunities to share our views, experiences and knowledge with all young leaders.



*Back Row: Anthony López, Executive Director/ASPIRA; and YPLCE Members: Melissa Mark Viverito, Deputy Director/ASPIRA; Karena Gore, Yvonne Lopez, Community Affairs Director/WBIS; Benito Alomia, Freelance Writer/Consultant; Maria Rios, Social Worker/St. Lukes Hospital; Bottom Row: Lisa Rodriguez, Associate Director/ASPIRA; Jeff Monges, Investment Associate/Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone; Ernie Torres, MIS Director/New York City School District.*

### 80 ASPIRANTES ATTEND PUERTO RICAN/HISPANIC YOUTH LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE (PRHYLI) IN ALBANY

The Puerto Rican/Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute is an annual three day event in Albany which affords New York City High School students with the unique opportunity to become familiar with the legislative process through participation in a series of workshops, forums, and a mock assembly. Students are also given the opportunity to present issues affecting them and their communities to government officials in policy-making positions. PRHYLI culminates in a scholarship awards banquet. This year's event took place on March 8-10. Through a collaborative effort between the NYC Board of Education, the Bilingual Education Division/State Education Department, and ASPIRA, 80 of the 150 students who participated were Aspirantes. In addition to ASPIRA's large representation of



*Besides our High School-age Aspirantes, this year secondary school students also attended PRHYLI. Above Benny Batancourt and Area Kennedy flank Congressman Jose E. Serrano*

students, eight out of the ten academic scholarship awarded went to Aspirantes. Congratulations to staff and students.

### ASPIRA PARENTS FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE (APEX) GRADUATION

Marking its first year at ASPIRA of New York, the ASPIRA Parents for Educational Excellence program was a huge success with 76 out of the 80 participating parents graduating. Funded by the National ASPIRA Association, this highly successful 10 weeks workshop initiative trains parents to become informed advocates for the improvement of their children's education. APEX's citywide empowerment of parents and communities is achieved by providing workshops focusing on education, community involvement, family issues, building partnerships, and the workings of the school board system. Program graduates are then encouraged to become future APEX workshop facilitators, perpetuating the program's success through role modeling and leadership.

For Info Call: 212-564-6880 Ext: 332

## ASPIRA'S 4TH ANNUAL 5K SCHOLARSHIP RUN

**A**SPIRA of New York held its 4th Annual 5 Kilometer Scholarship Fun Run/Walk in Central Park on Saturday, May 10, 1997. The event was well attended with over 150 participants running or walking the course. This year's sponsors included Reebok, The Hispanic Federation of New York City, Daily News & Viva, WABC Talk Radio, Hispanic Expert, Benco Popular de Puerto Rico, and Gentile & Pismeny. We thank our friends and supporters for making this year's run our most successful ever in terms of

participation and monies raised for college bound Puerto Rican and other Latino students. We also take this opportunity to congratulate this year's winners in the various categories:

Reuben Bridges	(Male 14 & Under)
Roberto Gonzalez	(Male 15-20 Years)
Alex Martinez	(Male 21-35 Years)
Victor Diaz	(Male 36 & Over)
Denise Abramson	(Female 14& Under)
Jocelyn Terrero	(Female 15-20 Years)
Tomoni Shirebo	(Female 21-35 Years)
Susan Epstein	(Female 36 & Over)



From Left: Anthony López, ASPIRA Executive Director, Ruth Messenger, Manhattan Borough President, and ASPIRA students pose for a pre-race photo.



"On Your Mark—Get Set—GO!!"

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH  
FORMER ASPIRA  
DIRECTOR HONORED

**T**he Board and staff of ASPIRA of New York, celebrated Women's History Month by honoring former ASPIRA Executive Director, **Lorraine Cortes-Vazquez**. A reception in Ms. Cortes-Vazquez's honor was held at the Daily News, New York City's primary daily newspaper. Board, staff and friends joined in recognizing Ms. Cortes-Vazquez's hard work and dedication to ASPIRA during her four years tenure. Her genuine affection for the young population ASPIRA serves, and her strong commitment to ASPIRA's mission and philosophy, earned Ms. Cortes-Vazquez the love and respect of her colleagues and Aspirantes.

We wish her continued success in her post as Chief of Staff for Assemblyman Roberto Ramirez, and extend to her our heartfelt appreciation for her years of service to ASPIRA and the Puerto Rican community.

ASPIRA CLUB  
EXPANSION

**A**SPIRA of New York is pleased to announce the formation of three additional ASPIRA chapters. The clubs are located in Western New York, Rockland County and Long Beach, New York.



ASPIRA of New York welcomes these affiliates into the ASPIRA family.

Please look to future AREYTO issues for more information.

## HELP SUPPORT ASPIRA'S PROGRAMS

**F**or over thirty-five years ASPIRA has had both the task and the pleasure of helping and guiding our youth in achieving excellence through education and in becoming tomorrow's leaders. These Aspirantes are in turn charged with the responsibility of one day "giving back" to the community and helping others to achieve as they themselves were once helped. Your donation today impacts this positive and productive cycle, and will continue making a difference to-morrow.

Help us continue the legacy.

- I would like to support ASPIRA of New York, Inc. with a tax deductible donation.

- \$15
- \$25
- \$50
- \$75
- \$100
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to *ASPIRA of New York, Inc.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Are you an Alumnus? \_\_\_\_\_

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

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NYC Council

##### Other Donors

Also, our thanks to

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and Volunteers



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